

7/27/46

WASHINGTON---Monty Irvin, former Lincoln University star athlete and hard-hitting Newark Eagle player, held the batting lead in the Negro National League, according to the latest statistics released last week by the Monroe Elias Baseball Bureau.

Irvin, regular outfielder with the Eagles but more recently playing shortstop, had a high average of .395 at last reports. The heavy swatting Bird had collected 51 hits in 129 appearances at the plate in 36 games; scored 34 times, batted in 31 runs, stole 5 bases, and poked nine doubles, two triples, and 4 home runs.

Baltimore's Henry Kimbro and the Homestead Grays' famed Josh Gibson were in second and third place, respectively, with .373 and ~~xxx~~ .354 averages.

Gibson was still on top in the distance hitting department with eight home runs against seven each for Newark's power combination of Larry Doby and Johnny Davis.

Among the first ten leaders, the other extra base leaders are Newark's Lenny Pearson, who leads in doubles with 10 against nine for Irvin and Gibson; and Silvio Garcia, Cuban ~~shortstop~~ shortstop, and Henry Kimbro, of the Baltimore Elite Giants, who share honors in the triples with five apiece.

The Philadelphia Stars, with a .986 average, ~~xxxxxxx~~ ousted the New York Cubans from the fielding lead, though the Latins have led the league in this respect all season.

Club batting honors were maintained by the hard-hitting Newark club, with four of its batters, Irvin, Davis, Doby and Pearson, in the first ten. The Homestead Grays were second in club batting, though last in the standings.

On the pitching side, Rufus Lewis, of Newark, and a teammate, Max Manning, were in the lead, with Red Fields, of the Grays tied with Lewis for second place. Manning, with a 7-1 record, for 73 innings in 13 games, had a .875 average, while Lewis and Fields possess a .833 record with five wins and one defeat each.